

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/928,859

Examiner

Courtney D. Fields

Applicant(s)

SAHLBACH, ANDREAS

Art Unit

2137

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08 August 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6, 8-16, 18 and 20-28.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 5,7,17,19, and 29 have been cancelled.
2. Claims 1-2,6,8-10,12-13,18,20-22, and 24-25 have been amended.
3. Claims 1-4,6,8-16,18, and 20-28 are pending.

### *Response to Arguments*

4. Applicant's arguments filed 08 August 2006 have been fully considered and they are persuasive.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

5. **Claims 1-4,6,8-16,18, and 20-28 are allowed.**
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed toward a method and system for providing a switch user functionality in a server-agent environment within an information technological network. Each independent claim identifies the uniquely distinct features "**generating a switch user (SU) certificate upon receiving a request to switch from a first user account presently used on the node to a second user account, signing the SU certificate with a signature using a private key based on public-key cryptography, sending the SU certificate to the agent, authenticating the signature with a public key that is a counterpart of the private key**". The closest prior art, Tabbara et al. (US Patent No. 6,886,038) discloses a system and method for restricting data transfers and managing software components of distributed computers, by using a Bmonitor (controller) located on the computer. The BMonitor includes a plurality of filters that identify where data can be sent to and/or received from, such as another node in a co-

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location facility or a client computer coupled to the computer via the Internet. However, either singularly or in combination, Tabbara et al. fail to anticipate or render the claimed limitation: generating a switch user (SU) certificate upon receiving a request to switch from a first user account presently used on the node to a second user account, signing the SU certificate with a signature using a private key based on public-key cryptography, sending the SU certificate to the agent, authenticating the signature with a public key that is a counterpart of the private key. The closest prior art, Sutton et al. (Pub No. 2003/0037177) discloses a method and system for executing commands on a multiple device management controller computer. However, either singularly or in combination, Sutton et al. fail to anticipate or render the claimed limitation: generating a switch user (SU) certificate upon receiving a request to switch from a first user account presently used on the node to a second user account, signing the SU certificate with a signature using a private key based on public-key cryptography, sending the SU certificate to the agent, authenticating the signature with a public key that is a counterpart of the private key. The closest prior art, Toh et al. (Pub No. 2002/0019932) discloses a system and method for securely transmitting data between two access systems via a switch system. However, either singularly or in combination, Toh et al. fail to anticipate or render the claimed limitation: generating a switch user (SU) certificate upon receiving a request to switch from a first user account presently used on the node to a second user account, signing the SU certificate with a signature using a private key based on public-key cryptography, sending the SU certificate to the agent, authenticating the signature with a public key that is a counterpart of the private key.

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7. Therefore, claims 1,13, and 25, and the respective dependent claims 2-4,6,8-16,18, and 20-28 are in condition for allowance.

***Conclusion***

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Courtney D. Fields whose telephone number is 571-272-3871. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs. 6:00 - 4:00 pm; off every Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



cdf

October 18, 2006



**MATTHEW SMITHERS**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
*Art Unit 2137*